

Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-05 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

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R 100500Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3864

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EGEN PINT EG

SUBJECT: INTERNAL ECONOMIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

HELP BUY TIME

REF: CAIRO 4429

1. IN WEEKS FOLLOWING COLLAPSE OF ASWAN TALKS, GOE HAS
CONTINUED FOCUS MAJOR SHARE OF ATTENTION ON ECONOMIC
MATTERS, IN PARTICULAR DIFFICULTIES FACING POPULATION.
PRESS HAS BEEN CONSTANTLY FILLED WITH SERIES OF ANNOUNCEMENTS
INTENDED TO INDICATE CONCERN AND ACTIVITY AT HIGHEST LEVELS
OF GOE TOWARDS SOLVING PROBLEMS AND RELIEVING BURDENS.

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2. WHILE SOME IMPLEMENTING STEPS ARE BEING TAKEN WITH REGARD TO VARIOUS PROCLAMATIONS, THEY LARGELY REPRESENT A SERIES OF POLITICALLY-ORIENTED STEPS DESIGNED TO MOLLIFY THE INTERNAL FRONT AND AT THE SAME TIME PROJECT AN IMAGE OF PEACEFUL INTENTIONS INTERNATIONALLY.

3. TYPICALLY, PRESS ARTICLES ACCOMPANYING ANNOUNCEMENTS PROVIDE NO DETAILS ON FINANCING OR GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION ASSIGNED TO IMPLEMENT MEASURES. DISJOINTED NATURE OF MANY OF PROCLAMATIONS, AND UNREAL QUALITY OF SOME OF THEM ARE ALSO AN INDICATION OF INABILITY GOE DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT COHERENT ECONOMIC POLICY IN SHORT RUN. SAMPLING OF PRESS HEADLINES IN RECENT PAST INCLUDE: A) PRESIDENT DECREES INCREASED INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION; B) HIGHER PLANNING COMMITTEE DECIDES TO IMPROVE BREAD IN 6 MONTHS; C) PENSIONS FOR WIDOWS, DIVORCEES, DISABLED, OLD AND NEEDY PERSONS WILL BE NOT LESS THAN 6 POUNDS PER MONTH; D) PRESIDENT ORDERS REMOVAL OF RED TAPE IN PUBLIC SECTOR; E) PRIME MINISTER ORDERS REMOVAL OF ALEXANDRIA PORT BOTTLENECK IN 30 DAYS; F) PRESIDENT DIRECTS INCREASED EFFICIENCY IN GOVERNMENT; G) PRIME MINISTER DECREES RELIEVING OF PEOPLE'S BURDENS; H) PRESIDENT ORDERS COMPLETION QATTARS DEPRESSION STUDY IN 18 MONTHS (VICE 3 YEARS); AND I) PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY TO STUDY INCREASE OF PENSION FOR THOSE WHO RETIRED PRIOR JULY 1974.

4. COMMENT: PENCHANT OF GOE TO GIVE APPEARANCE OF PROGRESS THROUGH RHETORIC IS NEITHER NEW NOR NECESSARILY HARMFUL DEPENDING ON VISIBLE AND TANGIBLE RESULTS IN AVAILABILITY AND QUALITY OF CONSUMER GOODS. ECONOMIC SITUATION IN GENERAL TERMS HAS IMPROVED SINCE OCTOBER WAR AND IT IS CLEAR GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO EASE, TO EXTENT POSSIBLE, MANY OF BURDENS BORNE BY POPULACE OVER PAST YEARS. KEY QUESTION, HOWEVER, IS NOT ONE OF INTENTION BUT ABILITY; GOE LACKS RESOURCES TO INCREASE (AND PERHAPS EVEN TO MAINTAIN) CURRENT LEVEL OF EXPENDITURES, PARTICULARLY FOR IMPORTED COMMODITIES. END RESULT MAY THEREFORE BE FURTHER DISAPPOINTMENTS.

EILTS

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